

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 57

By Finney R.

A RESOLUTION to commend the members of the Blount County Rescue Squad for honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Blount County Rescue Squad are such estimable people who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1957, the Blount County Rescue Squad, a non-profit United Way agency, has since grown to become one of the very best rescue squads in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the sixty members of the squad contribute an estimated 32,000 hours of volunteer service every year; and

WHEREAS, the Blount County Rescue Squad provides a lengthy list of services for the county's citizens, including vehicle extrication using the Jaws of Life, deep water and swift water rescue, technical rescue for trapped persons in mountainous or steep terrain, first response for medical emergencies, response to and coordination of searches for missing persons, lifting assistance, medical standby for area schools, sporting events, and community events, and provision of disaster support teams; and

WHEREAS, the squad also maintains an Explorer Post for boys and girls between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one who want to become Explorers, learn rescue techniques, and participate in rescues; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Blount County Rescue Squad are trained in rescue techniques, CPR, communication, map reading, and other rescue skills; training is approved by the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads (TARS), an association of which Blount County Rescue is a member; and

WHEREAS, every year TARS sponsors a statewide rescue competition for all Tennessee rescue squads; Blount County consistently ranks in the top three in these competitions attesting to the outstanding training, dedication, and aptitude of squad members; and

WHEREAS, the remarkable success and longevity enjoyed by the Blount County Rescue Squad is directly attributable to their reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and their uncommon ability to protect and serve people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Blount County Rescue Squad epitomize the ideal of consummate professionals, dedicated public servants, and reliable friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, because of the remarkable efforts of the Blount County Rescue Squad, countless lives are saved and many crises are averted, all of which are just part of the daily work of these brave men and women; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Blount County Rescue Squad are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the members of the Blount County Rescue Squad for fifty years of honorable and astute service to Tennessee and salute their unswerving commitment to promoting and maintaining the safety and welfare of the good people of Blount County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.